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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2006

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Abiding God, this is the day You created, and we rejoice. Thank You for Your unspeakable gifts and wondrous love. Lead the Members of this body with Your truth. Help them to walk faithfully according to Your precepts. Keep them near You as You teach them the power of sacrifice. Prepare them for the testing of their faith, and keep them from being intimidated by the forces of evil. Keep them from strife and division, as You give them prudent speech and a desire for unity.

Help us all to walk with obedience and living faith. And Lord, today we dedicate ourselves to You all over again.

We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today we have returned from the Presidents Day break to resume our debate on the PATRIOT Act. At 3 today, following our morning business period, we will return to consideration of S. 2271, the PATRIOT Act amendments bill. Tomorrow at 2:30, we will have a cloture vote on the underlying bill. If cloture is invoked, we will proceed to vote on passage of the bill at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. The 2:30 cloture vote on Tuesday will be the first vote of this week.

There are a number of important committee meetings going on this week, including the discussion on lobbying reform. The majority leader has stated that it is his expectation to begin consideration of that reform legislation next week. We will also have a joint meeting to hear an address from the Honorable Silvio Berlusconi, the Prime Minister of Italy. That address will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, and Senators should gather in the Chamber at 10:30. The Senate will proceed at 10:40 to the Hall of the House of Representatives for that address.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see here two friends on the Republican side who

wish to speak. Senator ALEXANDER wishes to speak, I understand, as soon as morning business is announced, and Senator WARNER.

Mr. WARNER. If the Senator is asking, yes, I will take 7 or 8 minutes.

Mr. REID. When morning business is announced, Senator WARNER will be recognized for up to 10 minutes and Senator ALEXANDER—for how long?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Five minutes.

Mr. REID. And when they finish their statements, I ask that the Senator from New York be recognized after morning business is announced.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there is now a period for the transaction of morning business up to 3 o'clock, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Does that apply?

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Democratic leader is simply arranging the order; is that correct?

Mr. REID. That is right.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Virginia.

PORT SALE REVIEW

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we awakened this morning with the news, confirmed, that major steps are going forward in connection with this very important issue of the ports. I use that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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